NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

DECEMBER 3, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Lick Observatory Recognized by National Weather Service (NWS) for More Than 120 Years of Observing Weather: On November 22, 2002, Lick Observatory received a 120-year Length of Service Award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service for observing and reporting weather for more than a century. Dave Reynolds, Meteorologist in Charge of the NWS Forecast Office in Monterey, California, presented the award to Remington Stone, Lick's Director of Operations. The ceremony took place at the Lick Observatory near the Santa Cruz campus of the University of California.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Five Chinese Scientists Visit Colorado Basin River Forecast Center: On November 26, 2002, five members of the Yellow River Conservancy Commission, Ministry of Water Resources of China visited the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. Dave Brandon, Hydrologist in Charge, made a presentation about the office, operations, data sources, and models that are used in forecasting. The Chinese visitors were also provided a tour of the office. An open round table discussion followed the tour. The group had many questions about the data inputs and the models but were particularly interested in satellite data collection capabilities using Data Collection Platforms. The group also commented about the similarities between the Colorado Basin and the Yellow River Basin in northern China.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is an outlook product issued by HMT Lawrence Kincaid of WFO Phoenix. Lawrence did an excellent job providing the public a heads-up regarding a significant change in the weather pattern.

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SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PHOENIX AZ
145 PM MST FRI NOV 29 2002

...WETTER AND COOLER WEATHER HEADED TOWARDS THE DESERT SOUTHWEST...

A STRONG LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM OFF THE NORTHERN BAJA CALIFORNIA COAST WILL CONTINUE MOVING NORTHEAST TONIGHT PULLING UP MOISTURE FROM THE SOUTH.

SHOWERS WILL BE ON THE INCREASE TONIGHT...CONTINUING THROUGH MUCH OF SATURDAY ACROSS SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA AND SOUTHWEST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ARIZONA AS THE STRONGEST PART OF THE STORM SYSTEM MOVES THROUGH. IN ADDITION...THUNDERSTORMS WILL ALSO BE POSSIBLE TONIGHT AND SATURDAY...WITH SOME STRONGER STORMS POSSIBLY PRODUCING SOME BRIEF HEAVY RAIN. COOLER TEMPERATURES WILL ALSO BE THE RULE OVER THE WEEKEND.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOME DESERT LOCATIONS IN SOUTHWEST ARIZONA AND SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA COULD RECEIVE RAINFALL TOTALS IN EXCESS OF A HALF INCH...WITH LOCALIZED HIGHER TERRAIN AREAS POSSIBLY MEASURING OVER AND INCH OF RAINFALL BY SUNDAY MORNING.

ANYONE PLANNING TO TRAVEL ACROSS ARIZONA AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SHOULD CHECK THE LATEST FORECASTS FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE WEATHER INFORMATION. ALSO...BE AWARE THAT THE HIGHER ELEVATIONS IN ARIZONA COULD RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE SNOWFALL WITH THIS STORM SYSTEM.

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HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES

NWRFC IPFS/GFE Activities: The Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) has been working with the Interactive Forecast Product System (IFPS)/Graphical Field Editor (GFE) for the past few months. Their work with this software stemmed from its potential to support the RFC requirements for quantitative precipitation, maximum and minimum temperature, and freezing level forecasts. Specifically, they desired to assess the software to 1) determine if, in its current state, it will meet the current requirements for precipitation, temperature, and freezing level forecasts, 2) assess the functionality of the IFPS/GFE software system in an RFC environment, and 3) investigate other functional applications that can be utilized to foster operations such as mosaic capabilities, meet Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) grid field requirements, apply the text formatters to potential Hydrometeorological Discussion (HMD) generation, and gain access to gridded information generated by the WFO (especially temperature and precipitation forecasts).

The RFC has installed the software on a LINUX box, configured GFE for the entire NWRFC domain at 2.5 KM grids, and implemented Inter-Site Coordination (ISC) (under 18.5) for WFOs Seattle, Portland, Medford, Spokane, Missoula, and Pendleton. They are continuing to assess the system impacts on other RFC operations. They have also generated basic text products (under 18.5). RFC personnel found that with GFE Version 18.5, HAS forecasters could make quick and accurate modifications to 2.5 x 2.5 km grids from model data at 6 hour time steps. HAS forecasters could also make modifications to grids by defining edit areas in GFE and then making changes to the QPF grids within those edit

areas using GFE Smart-Tools. These procedures worked for basins defined by elevation zones, as well. Finally, they have demonstrated that the HAS forecaster can modify and produce QPF grids. However, these capabilities do not satisfy the current RFC forecast mean areal precipitation (FMAP) requirements.

The RFC staff future work will be focused on: 1) an attempt development of techniques to use GFE to parse Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) point information and to produce a textual HMD product, and 2) identifying absent functions that can be proposed that will apply to the hydrology program.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

IFPS/GFE Workshop: OCWWS and WR will co-sponsor a GFE/IFPS workshop January 14-16, 2003 in Boulder, CO. By this time, the next version of the IFPS should be out which includes the newly released GFE formatters. The workshop will focus on complex terrain/coastal issues with a spin toward the practical sharing of information. One IFPS Focal point from each WR office, plus our friends from Alaska Region, Pacific Region will be in attendance. A draft agenda and hotel information will be provided soon!

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Field Requirements Team (FRT) and Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) Training: RMS Jack Lauritzen will be attending a Field Requirements Team (FRT) meeting for a new Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS) maintenance training course December 10 -11, 2002. The meeting will be focused on residence training requirements and will be held at the National Weather Service Training Center (NWSTC) in Kansas City, MO.

NWR Transmitter Installation: RMS Joe Lachacz assisted with the installation of a new NWR transmitter at Fossil, Oregon. The WNG-599 Fossil USDA NWR transmitter came on-line on November 26, 2002.

Advanced Weather Information Processing System (AWIPS) Status: Ten Western Region sites completed the AWIPS 5.2.2 upgrade in November. AWIPS 5.2.2 is being installed this week in WRH. WRH is tentatively scheduled to install and test AWIPS Operational Build 1 (OB1) the week of January 6, 2002, or sooner, if possible.